



HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John Harkness, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

- and the -

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. W. Barker.

- for the -

Year Ended 31st December, 1957.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

PREFACE.

To the Chairman, and Councillors of Halstead Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the district during 1957.

In May of this year, Dr. Ranson, who had been your Medical Officer since September 1923, retired and I hope I may be allowed to pay a tribute to his work in the district. Others better qualified than I who have been in close association with him during this time have paid tribute to his efforts in improving the health of the district but I should like to mention from my own experience the happy relationship which I have inherited, which he had achieved with the public and in particular with the parents, teachers and children, without which one's work is severely hampered. In the 34 years since Dr. Ranson was appointed, the Urban area has doubled in size, increased in population by 380 people and the death rate and infant mortality rate have been substantially reduced. A further index of the changes is contained in his description of the ambulance facilities in Halstead which appears in his first annual report "There is a horse-drawn ambulance at the Isolation Hospital." I am sure that I speak for the whole area when I wish him good health and a long and happy retirement.

Vital Statistics.

The total number of births was 104 giving a birth rate of 16.3 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 16.1.

There were 75 deaths and the death rate per 1,000 of the population was 11.7 which is close to the figure for England and Wales of 11.5.

Three infants died within the first year of life.

Infectious Diseases.

There were four cases of Poliomyelitis during the year none of which suffered a serious residual disability.

Extensive outbreaks of influenza were reported from Hong Kong, Singapore and other countries in the Far East during April and May and it was anticipated that it would reach this country in the Autumn. It was described as being a mild infection lasting 2-3 days, and followed by about 4 days disability. Towards the end of September the disease reached Halstead and involved a considerable proportion of the population. The senior schools and the factories suffered first and the infection spread gradually throughout the rest of the community. In some of the schools the absentee rate was well over 50% in the early days of October. The disease continued to be relatively mild but was a contributory cause in the death of one elderly person in the town. A vaccine was prepared but was not available in the district until the outbreak had finished.

The Mass Radiography Unit paid a visit to Halstead and District in October and November and examined 3,077 people. This was an increase of 427 over the figure for 1955. Four cases of Tuberculosis were discovered and referred to the Chest Clinic.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARKNESS.
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A - STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.....	1,232
Population (Registrar General's estimate).....	6,360
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books (end of 1957).....	2,366
Rateable Value.....	£75,454
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£267.14.6d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
<u>Live Births:-</u>			
Legitimate :	100	45	55
Illegitimate:	4	2	2
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....			16.3
Birth rate (corrected by comparability figure).....			18.0
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (England & Wales).....			16.1

Still Births:-

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate :	1	-	1
Illegitimate:	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under 1 year:

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate :	2	2	-
Illegitimate:	1	-	1

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	28.8
Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales.....	23.0

Deaths:-

	Total.	Male.	Female.
	75	42	33
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			11.7
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.79			9.2
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)...			11.5

Deaths from All Causes, 1957.

		Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other.	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease.	-	-
4.	Diphtheria.	-	-
5.	Whooping cough.	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
8.	Measles.	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	-
16.	Diabetes.	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	10	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	7	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	1
20.	Other heart disease.	2	4
21.	Other circulatory disease.	-	1
22.	Influenza.	2	-
23.	Pneumonia.	1	2
24.	Bronchitis.	1	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea.	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	6	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-
34.	All other accidents.	1	-
35.	Suicide.	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
	Total	<u>42</u>	<u>33</u>

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

Diseases.	Total Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Infective Hepatitis.	1	-	-
Measles.	44	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis.	2	2	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	2	2	-
Tuberculosis, pulmonary.	4	4	-
Whooping cough.	1	-	-
	<u>54</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>-</u>

SECTION B - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Inspections during the year 1957.

No.1 Housing Inspections.	39
Additional Housing Inspections.	302
Slaughter houses.	212
Food preparation premises.	65
Food Shops.	169
Shops.	46
Food storage premises.	34
Licensed Premises.	27
Waste of water.	6
Pest Control.	61
Factories (Power).	97
Factories (Non-power).	48
Council Houses.	452
Places of entertainment.	4
Water Samples.	18
Hairdressers.	1
Sanitary Accommodation insufficient.	2
Schools.	4
Water complaints.	9
Dustbins.	162
Smoke nuisances.	2
Stall holders.	5
Milk distribution.	2
Drainage Works.	58
Food Handling.	2
Public Baths.	5
Outworkers.	1
Waste Food Order.	5

Nuisances detected and Notices served.

<u>Nuisances:</u>	Detected - 21	Abated - 11
Informal Notices Served:	19	Complied with: 11
Statutory Notices served:	NIL	Complied with: NIL
Statutory Notices (further action awaiting):	NIL	

Pest Control.

Properties inspected:	61
Infestation located:	61
Infestations dealt with:	61

Water Supply.

28 samples of water were taken during the year for analysis from the town's main supply.

SECTION C - HOUSING.

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action: NIL

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A - Proceeding under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs: NIL

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: NIL

(a) By Owners: NIL
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners: NIL

B - Proceedings under Public Health Acts;-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: NIL

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- NIL

(a) By owners; NIL
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners: NIL

C - Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made: 9

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders:- 1

(3) Number of written undertakings accepted: 8

D - Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made: NIL

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit: NIL

E - Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished: NIL

F - Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949:-

(1) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1): NIL

(2) Demolition orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2): NIL

G - Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:-

(1) Closing Orders made under Section 19 (1): 16

Overcrowding - Part IV. Housing Act 1936.

No action was taken under this part during the year.

Slum Clearance - NIL

Improvement Grants - NIL.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for House defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Act): NIL
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: NIL
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses under sub-heading (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated and Regulations 1926, 1932: NIL
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: NIL
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation: 33
4. Number of dwelling houses (inclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation: NIL

SECTION D - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections.

Slaughter houses.	212
Food preparing premises.	65
Food Shops.	169
Shops.	46
Licensed Premises.	27
Food Storage Premises.	34

Carcases and Offal inspection and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) -		-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	422	-	14	894	615	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	NIL
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	2	-

Licensed Premises:

Number in district:	32
Number with inadequate & insufficient sanitary accommodation:	4
Number in which the sanitary accommodation has been repair & improved:	3
Number in which work to improve has been agreed upon:	3

Food Preparation Premises:

Number in district:	37
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SECTION E - FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Number on Register: 49 Power.
30 Non-power.

Number of inspections made: 145.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	Number of Register.	Number of:		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	49	35	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	30	83	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	4	-	-
TOTAL:-	82	122	1	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
			- 7 -		

Particulars.	No of cases in which defects were found.				No.of cases in which prosecutions were insti- tuted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Unreasonable temperature:	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient:-		-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective: 1		-	1	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes: -		-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	1	-	1	1	-

